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Compare the ancient's plan:

And out of her own goodness [I will] make the net
That shall enmesh them all. II, i, 367-8.

Mura's feigned solicitude,

'Tis too secure a confidence betrays
Minds valiant to irreparable dangers. II, i, 90-1,

is strongly suggestive of the Venetian's:

I would not have your free and noble nature,
Out of self-bounty, be abused. III, iii, 199-200.

When called upon for a "testimonial" or a "living reason," each slanderer falsely quotes the man whom he accuses. Each invokes the manly self-control of his victim in order to prevent a disastrous outbreak, at the same time seeing to it that the newly-excited wrath does not abate. In both dramas, a handkerchief is used as an instrument of evil. Finally, the line

And who can say now Abrahen is a villain?
IV, i, 315.

is nothing less than an echo of Iago's challenge:

What's he then that says I play the villain?
II, i, 342.

Besides the parallels pointed out by Dr. Parrott, the following echoes may be found interesting:

Make us not a stranger to your thoughts.
R. for H., I, i, 86.

Makest his ear
A stranger to thy thoughts. Oth. III, iii, 143-4.

In his extremity, the wronged Mura cries out:

Methinks the horror of the sound should fright
To everlasting ruin the whole world. III, i, 166-7.

Othello's words are:

Methinks it should be now a huge eclipse
Of sun and moon, and that the affrighted globe
Should yawn to alteration. V, ii, 99-100.

Mura—My just-waked wrath shall riot till it sink
In the remorseless eddy. III, i, 208-9.

Othello—My bloody thoughts, with violent pace,
Shall ne'er look back, ne'er ebb to humble
love,
Till that a wide and capable revenge
Swallow them up. III, iii, 457-60.

If those on which his eyes hang were my heart-strings.
R. for H., IV, i, 64-5.

Though that her jesses were my dear heart-strings.
Oth. III, iii, 261.

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VITZLIPUTZLI

To my note on *Vitzliputzli* (*Modern Language Notes*, November, 1913) I beg to add the following quotation from Gryphius' *Horribilicribrifax*, Act. I, Scene 1: "Behüte mich der grosse Vitriputrli." Here Vitriputrli is obviously identical with Vitzliputzli.

The reference was kindly pointed out to me by Prof. G. W. von Zedlitz of Victoria College, University of New Zealand.

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CHAUCER'S PROPHECY IN 1586

An interesting reference to "Chaucer's Prophecy" is found in a letter of information and complaint addressed by "A.B." to Lord Burghley, dated July 7, 1586.¹ The substance of the letter is given in the *Calendar* as follows:

"Wm. White, a merchant of these West parts, informed the writer that being at St. Malo last month, he heard that 16 of their ships and barks had been rifled or taken by English men-of-war, and that their hatred of the English was such that our merchants dare not walk about in public."

¹ *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, Addenda*, 1580-1625, p. 181. The reference was called to my attention by Dr. Carleton Brown.

The paragraph that is of special interest I quote in full (the italics are mine):²

"A commandment came from the kyng, for proysyon of certyn ships out of that harbor, & as he thynks generally to be yn readynes for the sea, the speach thear was for rochell, but the certenty not known. Surely Chawcer's provyse never toke so deepe effect yn yngland & specyally yn the west parts as now, for *theaft ys made good purchase*. Such ys our world heere as men yn greatest auctorite, to recover theyr vnthriftynes past sell theyr lands & buy shyps, commandyng the captain & company, not to retorn wthout assurance of a very great some, least they shold leaue as loosers by that occupatyon: thys was commandyd by a man most vnfytt for any government; for some respects hyt wer more convenient he shold be made known to yowr Honours by any other, then by myself" . . .

The phrase "*theaft ys made good purchase*" clearly identifies the reference to the third line of the poem which Skeat prints with two others under the heading "Sayings Printed by Caxton."³

Whan feyth failleth in prestes sawes,
And lordes hestes ar holden for lawes,
And robbery is holden purchas,
And lechery is holden solas,
Than shal the lond of Albyon
Be brought to grete confusioun.

Though the prophecy has come down to us associated with Chaucer's name, there is no early authority for ascribing it to Chaucer. It was first printed by Caxton at the end of an edition containing Chaucer's *Anelida* and *Purse*, from a ms. (Trin. Coll. Cam. ms. R 3 15) where it chanced to stand among a number of genuine Chaucerian poems. Thynne included it in his edition of Chaucer, 1532, placing it, with other anonymous pieces without heading, at the end of the Table of Contents; it was reprinted in the editions of 1542 and 1550, and in the editions of Stow and Speght; but in none of these editions was it

definitely ascribed to Chaucer.⁴ The earliest place where the lines are actually called "Chaucer's Prophecy" is in Ashmole ms. 781, art. 92, fol. 162, written between 1620 and 1631; and doubtless on the authority of this ms., Urry entitled them "Chaucer's Prophecy" in his edition of 1721.

The prophecy, moreover, is found in several varying forms, some of them of considerable antiquity; and versions closely allied to this are attributed to Merlin. A 15th century ms. (Ashmole 59, art. 52, fol. 78) contains one, entitled "*Prophecia Merlini doctoris perfecti*," of which the cataloguer remarks,⁵ "These four couplets are perhaps the correct form of what is called Chaucer's Prophecy in the printed editions of his works . . . and in a modern ms. in this collection (No. 781, art. 92) . . ."

In spite of the absence of editorial authority, the uncritical Elizabethan readers of Thynne's edition evidently assumed that all the contents of the volume were Chaucer's. Puttenham, in his *Art of English Poesie*,⁶ 1589, prefaces an inaccurate quotation of the prophecy with these words: "Sir Geffrey Chaucer, father of our English Poets, hath these verses following the distributor."

That a scholar and rhetorician like Puttenham, writing a formal treatise on rhetoric, should display acquaintance with Thynne's Chaucer is not remarkable. But that an obscure political agent like A.B., three years before Puttenham, should quote Chaucer casually in an ordinary business letter is significant; especially since he refers to the poem as one which Lord Burleigh would readily recognize, and does not even take the trouble to make his quotation exact. The allusion sheds light upon the extent of Elizabethan acquaintance with Chaucer, and the whole case well illustrates the way in which anonymous material was gradually gathered into the Chaucer canon.

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²This portion referring to the Prophecy has been copied for me from the original among the State Papers in the Public Record Office, by Miss Petherbridge.

³*Chaucerian and Other Pieces*, p. 450; Oxford Chaucer, Vol. VII, Supp. to the Works.

⁴See *Oxford Chaucer*, ed. Skeat, v. 1, pp. 27, 45. Miss Hammond, *Chaucer, a Bibliographical Manual*, N. Y., 1908, p. 447.

⁵*Catalogue of Ashmole MSS.*, W. H. Black, Oxford, 1845, p. 102.

⁶Bk. III, ch. xix; Arber's reprint, p. 232.